growth of 21.03% in pre-assessment collections in the same period. Moreover, pre-assessment collections are also made substantially through the efforts of the workforce of Income Tax Department including monitoring of advance tax, enforcement of TDS provisions, conducting searches and surveys, extending taxpayers services etc.

(b) Though no MoU has been signed between CBDT and the Government, the assurances given by CBDT to the Cabinet with regard to increased revenue generation have been fulfilled.

(c) A total of 8310 posts of Inspectors and below categories were vacant as on 1.1.2005. However, there has been no curtailment in the sanctioned strength of the tax recovery units.

Decline in profits of banks

1632. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that out of 27 public sector banks, 16 have reported a fall in net profits;

(b) whether he has looked into this problem; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Net profits of some public sector banks have declined during the year 2004-05 *viz-a-viz* year 2003-04 primarily because of increased provisioning for NPAs due to revised guidelines of RBI, provision for arrears on accounts of wage revision, depreciation on investments, hardening of yield on Government securities and resultant fall in treasury income etc. However, the Government has advised the Public Sector Banks to submit a Statement of Intent on Annual Goals for the financial year 2005-06, which includes quantitative and qualitative targets on various performance parameters *viz*. Capital Risk Adequacy Ratio (CRAR), earning per share, growth in business, priority sector lending, NPAs, profitability, improvement in risk management practices, use of technology, special efforts in reaching out to the under-privileged etc.